—a resolution that the President should be authorized to make all the necessary military preparations for obtaining possession of Forts Sumter and Pickens ; and, on the 20th, Mr. Davis wrote to the Governor, saying that " as soon as possible" he would " send an engineer of military skill to examine and report on the condition of Charleston Harbor and its works of defence and offence,"—and adding that he was " prepared for the criticism which the rash often bestow upon unnecessary caution." In another letter,[8] dated the 22d, he said he hoped that the Governor would be able " to prevent the issue of peace or war for the Confederate States from being decided by any other than the authorities constituted to conduct " their " international relations."

Under these circumstances, the authorities of South Carolina reluctantly, and perhaps with the feeling that their friends and associates at Montgomery had not given to their views all the consideration they deserved,[8] yielded the control of all military operations in Charleston Harbor to the Confederate authorities. On March 1st, Walker, the Secretary of War of the Confederate States, informed Governor Pickens[4] that his Government had assumed the control of military operations at Charleston, and would " make demand of the fort

when fully advised "; adding that an officer was going that night to take charge. The same day, President Davis wrote to the Governor[5] to advise him of the selec-

[1] *Conf. Doc.*, p. 374.
d^ pp. 377> 378.
, p. 379.
[9]/&V., p. 375.
[4]/&V., p. 379-